

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-36 (cancelled)

Claim 37 (Currently amended) An incombustible withdrawing system for withdrawing an incombustible from a fluidized-bed furnace when a fluidized bed is formed therein by a fluidized medium, said withdrawing system comprising:

 a mixture delivery path to deliver a mixture of the fluidized medium and the incombustible from a bottom of the fluidized-bed furnace;

 a fluidized-bed separating chamber disposed downstream of said mixture delivery path to fluidize the mixture by a fluidizing gas, and to separate the mixture into a first separated mixture having a high concentration of the fluidized medium and a second separated mixture having a high concentration of the incombustible;

 a conveyor in said mixture delivery path to deliver the mixture from the bottom of the fluidized-bed furnace to said fluidized-bed separating chamber;

 a return passage to return the first separated mixture to the fluidized-bed furnace; **and**
 an incombustible discharge passage to discharge the second separated mixture to an exterior of the fluidized-bed furnace; and

a fluidized medium delivering device within said incombustible discharge passage, such that said incombustible discharge passage is to discharge the second separated mixture to the exterior of the fluidized-bed furnace by having the second separated mixture be delivered non-vertically upwardly in said incombustible discharge passage by said fluidized medium delivering device, and then discharged from said incombustible discharge passage, at a position higher than a surface of the fluidized bed when formed in the fluidized-bed furnace, to the exterior of the fluidized-bed furnace.

Claim 38 (Previously presented) The incombustible withdrawing system according to claim 37, wherein

said incombustible discharge passage is disposed downstream of said fluidized-bed separating chamber.

Claims 39-52 (cancelled)

Claim 53 (Currently amended) The incombustible withdrawing system according to claim 37, wherein

said return passage and said incombustible discharge passage are connected to said fluidized-bed separating chamber independently of each other, and

said incombustible discharge passage is to discharge the second separated mixture to the exterior of the fluidized-bed furnace via an incombustible discharge port at a the position higher than a the surface of the fluidized bed when formed in the fluidized-bed furnace.

Claim 54 (Currently amended) A fluidized-bed furnace system comprising:

a fluidized-bed furnace to have a fluidized bed formed therein by a fluidized medium so as to combust, gasify, or pyrolyze material containing an incombustible; and

an incombustible withdrawing system including

(i) a mixture delivery path to deliver a mixture of the fluidized medium and the incombustible from a bottom of said fluidized-bed furnace,

(ii) a fluidized-bed separating chamber disposed downstream of said mixture delivery path to fluidize the mixture by a fluidizing gas, and to separate the mixture into a first separated mixture having a high concentration of the fluidized medium and a second separated mixture having a high concentration of the incombustible,

(iii) a conveyor in said mixture delivery path to deliver the mixture from the bottom of said fluidized-bed furnace to said fluidized-bed separating chamber,

(iv) a return passage to return the first separated mixture to said fluidized-bed furnace, and

(v) an incombustible discharge passage to discharge the second separated mixture to an exterior of said fluidized-bed furnace, and

(vi) a fluidized medium delivering device within said incombustible discharge passage,

such that said incombustible discharge passage is to discharge the second separated mixture to the exterior of the fluidized-bed furnace by having the second separated mixture be delivered non-vertically upwardly in said incombustible discharge passage by said fluidized medium delivering device, and then discharged from said incombustible discharge passage, at a position higher than a surface of the fluidized bed when formed in the fluidized-bed furnace, to the exterior of the fluidized-bed furnace.

Claim 55 (Previously presented) The fluidized-bed furnace system according to claim 54, wherein

said incombustible discharge passage is disposed downstream of said fluidized-bed separating chamber.

Claims 56-69 (cancelled)

Claim 70 (Currently amended) The fluidized-bed furnace system according to claim 54, wherein

said return passage and said incombustible discharge passage are connected to said fluidized-bed separating chamber independently of each other, and

said incombustible discharge passage is to discharge the second separated mixture to the exterior of said fluidized-bed furnace via an incombustible discharge port at a the position higher than a the surface of said fluidized bed when formed in the fluidized-bed furnace.